

## Preservation of the Gem State's Forests

By Shannon Kelly

Idaho's forests need to be preserved as well as possible. The forest provides us with oxygen from the trees, recreation, and wood products. If we are to have these opportunities, we must make an effort to protect our beautiful forests.

In the forestry business, it is important to focus on tree population and growth. People should reintroduce the native species to Idaho's forests. We should check trees annually and chop down the worst ones, leaving the best. The remaining trees will have seeds that will grow into good, healthy trees.

Our forests' trees need proper care. That means we should check the health of all trees. Any trees that have signs of disease (heart rot, root disease, mistletoe, etc.) will be cut down, and the wood can be used for products. Another thing to do is to cut down trees that have been devastated by bark beetles and other defoliators. We should then exterminate those insects, sending crews out once or twice a year. We should also get rid of trees that are growing crooked or are warped. If these trees stay, they will leave seeds that carry genes for mutation, and the trees from those seeds will repopulate the forest.

The lumber industry is important to Idaho's forests and economy. There should be a designated area, especially for the timber industry, for chopping down trees. Only certain numbers of trees should be allowed to be cut down each year. Save the good trees to leave seeds to produce more trees, which can be cut down in the future.

Idaho's forests are beautiful, so they should remain that way. In order to preserve them, we should focus on the population of the trees and their growth. The trees also need proper care. The lumber industry must also receive its own land designated for cutting down trees. Imagine how Idaho's forests will look in the future if these ideas are used. The forests will be full of life.